

ECA Newsletter

#15

February 2010

EXPERIENCING THE ARTS | *Artists' Contribution to Creative Thinking & European Innovation*

ECA 2009 Annual Conference took place in Malta on the 30th of October and 1st of November with approximately 60 delegates from 20 countries. Among the speakers were Edward de Bono, the originator of lateral thinking, Ion Caramitru, Romanian actor and director, Pia Raug, Danish composer, Philippe Kern, director of KEA International Affairs in Brussels, MEPs Maria Badia y Cutchet, Spain and Edward Scicluna, Malta and Irish senator Cecilia Keaveney representing the Council of Europe. Over two days of presentations and debates, the speakers highlighted the fact that competencies and qualifications requested by innovative enterprises and sectors correspond to those used by artists in their processes for creation or performance.

An important part of the conference was the experiencing of the arts and cultural heritage in Malta, such as Caravaggio's "The Beheading of St. John" in the Pro Cathedral, Valetta

The conference, which was supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, was organised in co-operation with the ECA Malta, and the Zararti Foundation.

A brief report was issued shortly after the conference and is available on ECA's website www.eca.dk/news. The full report will be published in March and will be available in PDF format on the ECA website. Printed reports will also be available and may be order from the ECA office.

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Member from Cyprus

ECA is pleased to welcome the Professional Artist Association Cyprus as member from January 2010. PAAC is a new, developing organisation. Its members are mainly visual artists, but a decision to open up for freelance artists of all disciplines will broaden the membership and increase the number of members.



The Danish Huskunstnerordningen Scheme for Children and Young People

At ECA's conference EXPERIENCING THE ARTS in Malta, two authors, Ida-Marie Rendtorff and Daniel Zimakoff, presented the Danish Huskunstnerordningen scheme [literally "house artist scheme" or Artist-in-Residence] for children and young people meeting artists and their own experiences of taking part in it at public primary and secondary schools. Although very popular and shown to be successful in recent evaluations, the Danish government planned to withdraw its operational budget. ECA's General Assembly addressed this short-sighted proposal in a resolution addressed to the Danish politicians. There were also strong protests from schools and from a wide range of actors in the cultural and artistic sector, which finally resulted in the Minister of Culture 'finding' the modest funding needed to keep the programme for the coming 4 years.



St Agnes' Primary School | Dublin

Delegates to ECA's 2009 conference, EXPERIENCING THE ARTS | *Artists' Contribution to Creative Thinking & European Innovation*, were informed about a music project in a Dublin primary school. The project, which provides violin tuition to each of the school's 400 pupils at no cost to their parents, has operated since 2006 and has been a tremendous success in two very different ways. It has developed the music skills of ALL of its 400 students, a 60 strong string orchestra has been formed and 18 students – through a very competitive process – have joined the Dublin Youth Orchestra. The more significant result of the project has been on the attitude of the students in the school, on their self-esteem and that of their families and the wider community, on their application to their other studies. Sr. Bernadette Sweeney, the originator of the project, says, "...it has made my girls more gentle people." The project, which operates in a socially deprived area of Dublin, is all the more remarkable because it functions without government funding or recognition.

St. Agnes' Music | Crumlin, has been short listed in Allied Irish Bank's "Better Ireland Award" as one of three groups from their area [AIB | Crumlin Cross]. You can help them win a substantial cash prize which will assist with next year's funding, by voting online | www.betterireland.ie | select **Dublin** | select **Crumlin Cross** | select "A" **St. Agnes' Primary School Orchestra Project**.

Voting is open from the 15th February to 15th March.

The further information on the St. Agnes Music Project can be found on their website www.stagnesmusiccrumlin.com





ECA Executive Committee Meeting | Dublin

ECA's new Executive Committee met at the offices of Visual Artists Ireland, Dublin, on the 1st of February. The Committee started a very busy day with a visit to St Agnes' Primary School where they were made very welcome by the staff and students. Members of the Committee were very impressed by the project and by the people they met there.

The rest of the day was devoted to committee business. The meeting followed-up on a number of issues that arose from the Malta conference and the Annual General Assembly. The budget for 2010 was discussed as was the Plan-of-Action approved in Malta.

Noel Kelly, CEO of VAI, made a presentation to the meeting and detailed VAI's recent lobbying to Government and the Arts Council and outlined the results of a major research project/report titled "The Social, Economic & Fiscal Status of Visual Artists in Ireland".

[<http://www.visualartists.ie/index.html>]



Creative Content in a European Digital Single Market | *challenges for the future*

ECA participated in the Commission's public consultation on their reflection document "Creative Content in a European Digital Single Market | *challenges for the future*" with a short statement.

In the comment ECA underlined the need to distinguish the European Authors' Rights System (which is often wrongly translated as copyright), where the authors and performers keep their rights, can decide on the use of their works and get the financial remuneration, from the Anglo-American Copyright System, in which rights can be traded and the commercial financiers (producers) normally buy the rights from authors and performers. The European Authors' Right System is under pressure and needs to be supported by legislative means. Read the comment at www.eca.dk/news.



Executive Committee | new members elected

At the ECA General Assembly on 2nd of November a number of new Executive Committee members were elected. The Executive Committee for 2009/10 is therefore the following:

Michael	BURKE	sculptor	Ireland	president
Torben	HERON	visual artist	Denmark	
Annette	HOLLYWOOD	visual artist	Germany	
Irina	HOREA	literary translator	Romania	
Michael	PISCOPO	graphic designer	Malta	

Ugis Silvije	PRAULINS PETRANOVIC	composer film director	Latvia Croatia
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MOBILITY IN THE VISUAL ARTS SECTOR IN EUROPE

...experts' meeting on mobility in the visual arts sector in Europe

ECA's German member, The Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste [IGBK], Berlin, organised a meeting of European experts at Atelierhaus Salzamt in Linz in December 2009. The round table on mobility in the visual arts sector brought together artists, delegates of artists' associations and residencies, cultural networks and other experts as well as members of the OMC working group "Mobility Of Artists And Other Professionals In The Cultural Field". Discussions were related to the issues customs and taxation, visas, information systems and artists' residencies and support schemes.

Problems and obstacles to mobility have been widely examined and the aim of the meeting was to focus on possible solutions and good practice examples. The Swiss artists' organisation VisArte reported on clear guidelines on transportation of artworks provided by the Swiss customs authorities. Such guidelines are welcome as artists often have to organise transport of their own works and dealing with customs regulations and its different interpretations is time consuming and often expensive. As regards visa the IG Bildende Kunst in Austria has been lobbying for the rights of artists from abroad to live and work in Austria for some time and has been invited to participate in inter-ministerial working groups. Following the approach to co-ordinate and to provide better access to information the EU pilot project PRACTICS was presented, as was Slovenian based web portal ArtServis.

The topics discussed do not concern visual artists only... ...artists from other disciplines are equally affected. ECA president Michael Burke emphasised the need to establish strategic partnerships.

The examination of challenges for the visual arts sector in Linz was part of a broader discussion to facilitate international working conditions for artists and arts organisations. IGBK is now working on a strategy paper and recommendations for further steps that should be taken at national and EU level.

The meeting was part of an EU project, "Urban Interventions | *artistic perspectives for the urban space*", which is co-ordinated by the city of Linz.

[see art@igbk.de for further information]



Comment on Community Innovation Policy

ECA took part in DG Enterprise's Public Consultation on Community Innovation Policy. In the comment, sent on 16 November, ECA underlines the relationship between culture based creativity and innovation and asks the Commission to pay attention to the creators, who are the content providers, for example by securing fair management of intellectual property rights. It is also noted in the comment that "traditional" artists' competencies and qualifications correspond to those requested by the innovative enterprises. The full comment is available at www.eca.dk/news.



Art in Public Buildings in Estonia

On a suggestion by Jaan Elken from the Estonian Association of Artists, the ECA general assembly 2009 (gathered in Malta 2 November) decided to address Estonia's Prime Minister and Minister of Culture to back their initiative to legislate for provision of a Percent for Art programme on all public buildings. The proposed law, which would reserve 1% of the building budget for the provision of art work when public buildings are constructed, was met with some criticism... ..especially from local administrators... ..was the subject of and a rigorous public debate. Read ECA's letter at www.eca.dk/news

The Estonian government is now revising the proposed legislation. In order to maintain focus on the issue, artists' organisations will organise a conference by the end of March to present/explore European practice in the area of Percent for Art and will organise an exhibition on art in public spaces.



Composer – Dr Ivo Josipovic | inaugurated President of Croatia

Dr. Ivo Josipovic, former Secretary General of the Croatian Composers' Society [HDS], was inaugurated President of Croatia on the 18th of February.

Dr. Ivo Josipovic, who was born in Zagreb in 1957, pursued parallel careers in music and law, obtaining a degree in composition at the Zagreb Music Academy in 1983 and a doctorate in law. He is a leading Croatian expert in criminal law and international law. At the focus of his activities were war crimes and human rights.

He has composed more than 50 works for orchestra, chamber, solo and vocal ensembles and has received awards in national and international competitions. Dr. Josipovic worked as the Secretary General of the HDS from 1987 to 2000 and was instrumental in transforming it into a modern and efficient society, as well as developing the Croatian collecting society for musical copyright protection. He is a member of Croatian Parliament since 2003. He has been a board member of HDS since 1991 and has headed their our most important project – the Zagreb Music Biennale.



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ECA Executive Committee:

Michael Burke | sculptor | Ireland | *president*
Torben Heron | visual artist | Denmark
Annette Hollywood | visual artist | Germany
Irina Horea | literary translator | Romania
Silvije Petranovic | film director | Croatia
Michael Piscopo | graphic/stage designer | Malta
Ugis Praulins | composer | Latvia

Elisabet Diedrichs | executive director

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>>> Please Note ECA's New Postal Address <<<
e-mail and web addresses remain the same, as do the numbers for telephone and facsimile

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